



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS LEADS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN OBSERVANCE OF 'PROBATION OFFICERS WEEK' RECOGNIZING MAJOR MILESTONES OF THE DEPARTMENT**

**LOS ANGELES** – Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas today joined the Board of Supervisors in recognizing the work of the Los Angeles County Probation Department as it prepares to celebrate 110 years of service to the County.

The department will mark the occasion at its annual banquet on June 18, highlighting a number of other key milestones, including its 100th Anniversary of operating the Central Juvenile Hall facility and the 65th Anniversary of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 685.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas led the Board in declaring the week of June 13 through 18 as "Probation Officers Week" in the County of Los Angeles, thanking the department for its dedication and service to the community.

"Probation officers are should be recognized for the significant contributions they make to the Greater Los Angeles community," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

"These officers actively engage and motivate youth and adults to follow a productive path through life, helping to rebuild lives and provide for healthier and safer communities." This dedication stems from probation officers' belief that people can be rehabilitated and transformed into law abiding citizens in our community."

The Supervisor noted that the department's contributions range from the Camp Forestry Program started in the 1930's, to their efforts in the successful Day Reporting Center. In all instances, probation officers have been able to teach young adults the skills needed to get a new start in life.

Joining the Supervisor for the Board presentation were Chief Probation Officer Donald Blevins, AFSCME Local 685 President Ralph Miller, and probation investigator Irene Gonzalez.

"The department and its officers certainly face significant challenges, but in the same way that Probation officers assist their clients in starting anew, there are many positive changes – including the presence of Chief Blevins – that will aid the department in overcoming its obstacles," the Supervisor said.

The department continues to shape youth and young adults, and many young people who have had brief encounters with the system are now social workers, teachers, and business professionals.

"Thank you for your hard work on behalf of the young people of our communities, and for your commitment to creating safe and healthy communities," the Supervisor said.

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